

**Elul 5777 to prepare for Tishrei 5778 Cheshbon Chart**

Teshuva means return. When speaking about return we are speaking about the state we were in before we were born and even more, the state of our spiritual soul before Adam sinned, a state where primal matter could hold onto kedusha. When we are born, the soul at that time has to make an oath, be righteous and don't be wicked, we swear to turn those circumstances as the backdrop to being. We are asking for chaim for 5778, and chaim is plural, lives. Two lives, in this world and for eternity. This world is a corridor to the next. We encounter the peel of the fruit and can choose to hold steady in order to unify the fruit itself, the part of us made in Hashem's Image, with the Shechina hidden by the kelipas and judgments. How? By arousing love for Hashem through prayer and with emunah, understanding that our effort to do so IS the redeeming effort Hashem wants from us in order that He can be revealed in our words and deeds. Arousing love for Hashem with awe literally opens the kelipa and brings the spiritual matter hidden within back to Hashem so that He can through that unification be revealed in the physical world -WE infuse the ingredient of ahava and receive Simcha in our hearts, the greatest pleasure possible. **Happiness is the byproduct of living up to this promise, to live for reflecting into the world Torah values and Hashem's Attributes of Mercy. Lovingly and gently complete the chart below to discover two or three areas that show a pattern of swirling emotions that have yet to produce real happiness in your life.**

Segment Of time By decade	What happened during this period of my life. Try to remember all the events, tragedies, simchas. Life situations	How did I respond? What did I do in response to these things?	From where I am today, not where I was then when I might have made the best possible choices, which of my choices got me closer to where I want to be in life and which got me further. Identify where the choices got you	Say, and this is crucial, what was I thinking and feeling when I made the good choices and what was I thinking and feeling when I made the bad choices. We will see our patterns, like insecurity , fear, afraid of rejection, desire, impulsivity This is the swirling - we want to separate out tzelem elokim from being drawn towards the vortex of doubt to destruction	Your feelings and thoughts reveal your motivators, deep from within. It is not necessary important to understand why your middos are the way they are, some from birth, from environment, habit, choices. That doesn't matter. As a wise man says, it may be my fault but it is your problem. You have to deal with your middos as they are, which cause your deeds. Teshuva is about middos, if you make it about deeds it is about cutting weeds without roots. Have a visualization of how you wish things were  The sole goal of seeing the fault is to bring ourselves to a new free will point to make choices that return happiness to avodas Hashem and in that effort create positive influence
0-4					
5-10					
10-20					
20-30					
30-40					
40-50					
50-60					
60+					

Even if the world says you are a tzaddik feel in your eyes as a rasha. The feeling of being finished is a breach of this oath. Return to feeling unfinished and let it bring you into being a tzaddik. **As long as we are alive, we are empowered to bring nourishment to the universe through our effort to bring deeper places within our subconscious into conscious service of Hashem.**